UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME

UNDP

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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
JAMAICA

IPF:(1987-91) $ 4 430 000

(JAM/91/004)-Typhoid Control and Prevention Programme

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	21 August 1991
Expected duration:	15 months
Proposed executing agency:	UNDP/OPS
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Health in co-operation with National Water Commission
Proposed UNDP contribution:	Nil Source of funds: IPF
Government cost sharing:	$1 852 000
Total UNDP budget:	$1 852 000

Project background

Typhoid fever is endemic to the parish of Westmoreland, located at the south-western tip of the island of Jamaica; and since 1825, there have been a number of major epidemics. In 1990 there were two major outbreaks resulting in 7 deaths, 182 confirmed cases and 370 suspected cases of typhoid. Several population centres were affected simultaneously, suggesting a probable common source affecting the geographic location rather than a spread from one area to another. Preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Health, and later confirmed by the Centre for Disease Control (USA), revealed that the areas with the highest attack rates were served by a single water treatment and distribution facility. There is growing concern that lack of adequate health and sanitation could cause another onset of typhoid or even cholera.

The investigations also revealed several interrelated factors which contributed to the outbreaks, chief among which were the poorly functioning sewage treatment plants, lack of

[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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sanitary facilities for plant operators, limited access to potable water, insufficient number of pit latrines and low levels of literacy among the target population. All of the antecedents, coupled with cultural traditions which appear to impact on hygienic practices, have hampered the Ministry's health and hygiene education programme.

The Government intends to enhance primary health care services by making far-reaching improvements in its management system, in particular, improvements in the curative clinic facilities and general preventative health services, which are of greatest significance to the poor and indigent. With the financial support of USAID and the project management expertise of UNDP, it will tackle the issues related to typhoid fever in the parish, in a structured manner. A sum of(US)$2.0 million will be utilized to remedy some of the most pressing problems and to design a longer-term strategy for typhoid control and prevention. Four areas have been selected: clinical and epidemiological surveillance, health education, water distribution, and waste water and excreta disposal.

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to improve the delivery of primary health care with particular reference to environmental health. Project activities will include:(a) enabling government departments to administer and implement proper clinical and epidemiological surveillance systems which should reduce the incidence of communicable diseases such as typhoid and contain the spread in the event of an outbreak; (b)maintaining a fully-equipped and functional laboratory staffed by skilled personnel;(c)imparting proper sanitation and health care practices through community leaders to the target communities to implement the outreach programme; (d) improving water treatment and quality control ; (e)undertaking infrastructural repairs of the water distribution system and installing additional pipes to make potable water more accessible to the communities;(f) constructing sanitary facilities (pit latrines) for approximately one thousand households; and (g) repairing sewage treatment facilities in three of the six districts in the parish.

The project will also deal specifically with environmental health, the role of women and NGOs in that subsector; and will seek to strengthen the institutional capacity of designated government agencies charged with the responsibility for implementation and monitoring of the programme.

Inputs

UNDP will provide an international project co-ordinator (sanitary engineer) for 15man- months; an epidemiologist for six man-months; and a health education specialist for six man-months; two UNV specialists in the latter two fields for 15 man-months each; at the national level, an assistant project co-ordinator and two laboratory technicians, for 15 man-months each; three major subcontracts for water supply, waste water and sewage disposal, and sanitary facilities addressing the problems of potable water and sanitation; and laboratory supplies, two personal computers and two vehicles for the project team.

Financial data

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Personnel	394 000
Subcontract	1 144 000
Training	138 000
Equipment	145 000
Miscellaneous	31 000
Total	1 852 000

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